

March 8, 2010

Col. John R. Boulé,  
Commander and District Engineer  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
New York District  
26 Federal Plaza  
New York, NY 10278-0090

Mr. John Moyle  
Manager of Dam Safety and Flood Control  
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection  
P. O. Box 402  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0402

Dear Colonel Boulé and Mr. Moyle,

Both of you have authoritative knowledge of the flooding problems in the Passaic River Basin, as well as the concerns of those who live in the area. As you are aware, the Passaic River Basin Flood Task Force has been actively working over the past five years to reactivate comprehensive flood control efforts.

Taking into account your recommendations, as well as the consultations with the task force members, we are writing to inform you of the task force's support for a general re-evaluation report of the Central River Basin Mainstream Study.

After more than 20 years since the original Main Stem feasibility study's recommendations were published, we believe it is time for a fresh set of eyes to analyze the roughly 900-square-mile area and develop practical methods to help abate flooding, especially during the worst possible circumstances.

The communities in the Passaic River Basin have seen plenty of water damage over the last 25 years. We fear that these episodes are but a precursor to a more severe event tantamount to the floods of 1902 and 1903. While we have made some progress in recent years around the margins, with a popular buyout program underway in Pompton Lakes and Wayne, and the completion of the flood management project at Molly Ann's Brook, a comprehensive solution to flooding in the Basin has remained elusive. That is why it is all the more imperative for all of us to act as quickly and as decisively as possible.

Know that you have our support as you proceed. We look forward to working with you and your staff, along with the task force members, in the name of transparency, to bring the much needed comprehensive flood control efforts that our communities deserve.

Sincerely,



Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Scott T. Rumana  
Member of the N.J. State Assembly

Cc: Jodi McDonald, Project Manager  
Alicia Gould, ACE  
Charles Defendorf, NJ DEP